

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 PARIS 13157 041746Z

ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W

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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2444

S E C R E T PARIS 13157

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E.O. 11652: XGDS 2

TAGS: PLOS, MILI, FR

SUBJECT: UNDERSEA DETECTION SYSTEMS: FRENCH POSITION

1. MISTRAL, ACTING CHIEF OF PACTS AND DISARMAMENT AT QUAI CALLED IN EMBOFF MAY 4 TO DISCUSS UNDERSEA DETECTION SYSTEMS (SOSUS).
 2. MISTRAL STATED HIS REMARKS WERE UNOFFICIAL AND PERSONAL. HE OPENED BY SAYING FRANCE IS NOT, REPEAT NOT, THE DEMANDEUR CONCERNING SOSUS INFORMATION. FRANCE HAD INFORMED THE US LAST SUMMER OF THE PROPOSED FRENCH POSITION ON THE MEXICAN AMENDMENT WHICH WOULD PROHIBIT MILITARY DEVICES ON THE CONTINENTAL SHELF. THE UNITED STATES HAD ASKED TO REVIEW JOINTLY THIS LOS ISSUE. DURING THE JOINT REVIEW FRANCE HAD MADE CERTAIN REQUESTS CONCERNING SOSUS TO WHICH THE U.S. HAS NOT YET RESPONDED.
 3. MISTRAL CONTINUED THAT THE GOF UNDERSTANDS THAT IT IS UP TO THE U.S. WHETHER, HOW, AND AT WHAT LEVEL IT RESPONDS TO THESE QUIRIES.
 4. MISTRAL SAID THAT FRANCE WILL PROBABLY MAINTAIN SECRET
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- ITS POSITION OF SUPPORT FOR THE MEXICAN AMENDMENT AT THE MAY LOS CONFERENCE IN THE ABSENCE OF THE U.S. RESPONSE ON SOSUS. THE FINAL DECISION IS NOT YET MADE BUT THAT IS THE LIKELY OUTCOME.
5. EMBOFF, SPEAKING PERSONALLY, NOTED THAT THIS QUESTION INVOLVES FRENCH SECURITY INTERESTS AS WELL

AS U.S. HE ASKED MISTRAL WHY LATTER
AND DEPUTY POLITICAL DIRECTOR PANIEZ HAD NOT
RAISED SOSUS DURING APRIL 29 CONFERENCE IN
WASHINGTON. MISTRAL REPLIED THAT FRANCE IS NOT THE
DEMANDEUR. MISTRAL SAID HE COULD NOT
EXCLUDE THAT THE SUBJECT WOULD COME UP DURING
THE LONDON SUMMIT IN BILATERAL CONFERENCES.

6. COMMENT: WE VIEW THIS APPROACH WHICH WAS
CERTAINLY NOT UNOFFICIAL AND PERSONAL, DESPITE
MISTRAL'S STATEMENT, AS ANOTHER TIGHTENING OF THE
SCREW ON THE SOSUS ISSUE BY THE GOF. WE DO NOT
KNOW AT WHAT LEVEL IN LONDON THE FRENCH MAY WISH TO
DISCUSS THIS, BUT MISTRAL'S COMMENTS MAKE IT CLEAR
THAT THEY WANT A RESPONSE VERY MUCH.
GAMMON

SECRET

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MONITORING, CONTINENTAL SHELF, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, SEABED ARMS CONTROL TREATY, CAT-C
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 04-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977PARIS13157
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: OA 19820510 JOHN BROGAN
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: P850056-1698, N770003-0173
Format: TEL
From: PARIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770595/aaaadeex.tel
Line Count: 78
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 54568c9a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NODS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2644307
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: UNDERSEA DETECTION SYSTEMS: FRENCH POSITION
TAGS: MILI, PLOS, PARM, FR
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/54568c9a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009